

Some Aspects of the
Farmers' Problems

By BERNARD M. BARUCH

(Reprinted from Atlantic Monthly.)

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS
ELBA, ALABAMA COUNTY
Sealed bids will be received by the State Highway Commission or Alabama at the office of the State Highway Department, Montgomery, Alabama, until 12 o'clock noon March 28, 1922, and at that time publicly opened for the construction of a road to be built at Elba, and ending at the Geneva County line. The length of road to be constructed is 26,096 miles, and the principal items of work are approximately as follows:

35.21 Acres clearing and grubbing,
12,259 Cu. yds. common excavation,
2,050 Sta. yds. overhaul on excavation,
8,780 Cu. yds. sand clay surfacing.

1080 Lin. ft. 15" D S T C pipe,
805 Lin. ft. 18" D S T C pipe,
975 Lin. ft. 21" D S T C pipe,
10,775 Lin. ft. 24" D S T C pipe.

10 Lin. ft. 30" corrugated metal pipe to be replaced.

20 Lin. ft. 18" corrugated metal pipe to be replaced.

21,616 Cu. yds. Class B Concrete in headwalls,
4,836 Cu. yds. Class A Concrete in headwalls,
10 Cu. yds. Class A Concrete in culverts.

7,255 Pounds reinforcing steel in culverts.

33,146 FBM creosoted timber in bridges,

1,176 Lin. ft. creosoted piling in bridges.

200 R O W markers.

200 signs, crossing slopes.

Plans and specifications are on file in the office of the State Highway Department at Montgomery, and in the office of the Division Engineer at Montgomery, Ala. Any additional information may be secured from the State Highway Engineer, Montgomery, Ala.

An ancient evil, and a persistent one, is the undergirding of farm products, with the result that what the farmers sell as of one quality is sold as of a higher. That this sort of thing is not to be tolerated is a matter of common knowledge, and it is important to note in these days of national integrity that even the nation men as well as food. Cities derive their vitality and are forever drawing from the country, but an impoverished countryside is not, and retains unattractive qualities. Only the lower grades of mentality and character will remain on, or seek the farms, unless the farmer is capable of holding his own with content and adequate compensation. Hence, to embitter and impoverish the farmer is to dry up a man's chief source of income, and retains unattractive qualities. Only the lower grades of mentality and character will remain on, or seek the farms, unless the farmer is capable of holding his own with content and adequate compensation. Hence, to embitter and impoverish the farmer is to dry up a man's chief source of income, and retains unattractive qualities.

Another evil is that of inaccurate weighing of farm products, which, it is charged, is sometimes a matter of mere carelessness and sometimes of deliberate intent to defraud the buyer, who fears that he may "weigh out" more than he "weighs in."

A greater grievance is that at present the farmer has little or no control over the price he receives. That is, he cannot control the price of his products, and that all he can do is to get the best price he can, and to hope that lesson when we ponder on the farmer's problems, and there should be no attempt to do so, because, as if they were purely selfish demands of a clear-cut group, antagonistic to the rest of the community. Rather should we consider agriculture in the light of broad national policy, just as we consider oil, coal, steel, dry-stuffs, and so forth, as sources of national wealth. Our growing population and a higher standard of living demand increasing food supplies, and more land, cotton, hides, and the rest. With this in mind, we can see that, except in cases of extreme cost, increased yields can come only from costly effort. This we need not expect from an impoverished and unattractive population.

It will not do to take a narrow view of the rural discontent, or to appraise it from the standpoint of yesterday. This is the view of the past, and a change and new deal. But, a thing always has been so no longer means that it is righteous, or always shall it be. In this camp, though ever before, there is a widespread conviction that all human relations can be improved by taking thought, and that it is not necessary for us to be continually fighting and threatening and to leave no stone unturned.

Precise and orderly adjustment of production and consumption is recognized as wise management in every business, but that of farming. Yet, I would like to say, there is no other industry in which the most important part of the public interest—the part that the public—should be the chief—therefore a production should be steady, and increasing, and that distribution should be proportionate to the needs. The unorganized farmer, however, is apt to be impulsive and, in consequence, surplus and dearth, accompanied by sharp fluctuations, and by the wants of the consumer. One year, potatoes rot in the fields because of excess production, and there is a scarcity of the things that have been displaced to make room for the expansion of the potato acreage; next year the potatoed farmers mass their fields on some other crop, and the potatoes enter the class of luxuries, and so on.

Agriculture is the greatest and fundamentally the most important of our American industries. The cities are but the bidders of the raw material of national life, the roots of which go deep into the land. We all benefit or decline with the farmer. So, when we consider the rural problem, we must consider the financial distress of the farmer, the sum of six billion dollars in the farm value of their crops in a single year,

of their inability to meet mortgages or to pay current bills, and how, seeking relief from these difficulties, they are unable to turn pools of capital into farms and demand legislation abolishing grain exchanges, private cattle markets, and the like, we ought not to be surprised. It is evident that the railways and highwaymen are here at the charge of being seekers of special privilege. Rather, we should ask if their trouble is not ours, and whether we are not responsible for the situation. Purely from self-interest, if for no higher motive, we should help them. All of us want to get back government "monopolies" for the farmers, but the farmers are not entitled to special privileges unless they are placed in equal footing with the buyers of their products and with other industries?

I Let us, then, consider some of the farmer's grievances, and see how far they are real. In doing so, we should remember that, while there have been, and still are, abuses, the subject should not be approached with any general imputation to existing distributive agencies of deliberately intentional oppression, but rather with the conception that the manipulation of farm products has not been malicious.

So, let us begin with the political economy, which will at a high degree of national self-sufficiency and self-containment. Here fell when the food supply was too far removed from the market. Let us, then, turn our own agricultural and extend our sources of food, and particularly to existing distributive agencies of deliberately intentional oppression, but rather with the conception that the manipulation of farm products has not been malicious.

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The Elba Clipper
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Established June 17, 1897.
RENZO C. BRYAN, Editor & Owner

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4 Months .50

Invariably Cash In Advance.
All names go off mail list at expiration of subscription.

Entered as second class matter July 18, 1905 at the Postoffice at Elba, Ala., under Act of Congress of March 3, 1876.

POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

For Sheriff

I hereby announce myself as a candidate for the office of Sheriff of Coffee County, Alabama, subject to the action of the Democratic primary to be held next August. I will be grateful to the voters, both ladies and men, for your vote and support, and if elected, will discharge the office to the best of my ability.

D. J. STEPHENS.
(Paid political advertisement of D. J. Stephens, New Brockton, Ala.)

I hereby announce my candidacy for the office of Sheriff of Coffee County, subject to the democratic primary election to be held in August. Your vote and influence will be highly appreciated.

J. D. PARKER.
(Paid political announcement by J. D. Parker, Elba, Ala.)

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of Sheriff of Coffee County, subject to the action of the Democratic primary in August.

E. D. GODWIN.
(Paid political announcement by E. D. Godwin, Enterprise, Ala.)

For Probate Judge
I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of Probate Judge of Coffee County, subject to the action of the coming Democratic primary in August. Your vote and support will be appreciated.

R. O. FONN FLEMING.
(Paid political announcement by R. O. Fleming, Enterprise, Ala.)

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of Probate Judge of Coffee County, subject to the action of the Democratic primary in August. Your vote and influence will be appreciated.

JOHN D. STEWART.
(Paid political announcement by John D. Stewart, Enterprise, Ala.)

For Circuit Clerk
I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of Circuit Clerk of Coffee County, subject to the action of the Democratic primary in August. Your vote and influence will be appreciated.

L. BELCHER CLARK.
(Paid political announcement by L. Belcher Clark, Enterprise, Ala.)

I hereby announce myself a candidate for re-election as Clerk of the Circuit Court of Coffee County, subject to the action of the Democratic primary in August. Your vote will be appreciated.

S. H. BROCK.
(Paid political announcement by S. H. Brock, Elba, Ala.)

For Circuit Judge
I am a candidate for re-election as Judge of the 12th Judicial Circuit, subject to the Democratic Primary in August. Your vote will be appreciated.

A. B. FOSTER.
(Paid political announcement by A. B. Foster, Troy, Alabama.)

For Congressman
I hereby announce myself a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Representative in the 65th Congress of the United States from the Third Congressional District of Alabama subject to the action of the Democratic primary to be held August 12, 1922.

HENRY B. STEAGALL.
(Paid political announcement by H. B. Steagall)

TWELVE CHILDREN BORN IN 5 YEARS TO COUPLE

Mr. and Mrs. William Poteet of Hopkinsville, Ky., became the parents of 12 children in less than five years. During the first five years of their wedded life, four pairs of twins were born to Mr. and Mrs. Poteet, one eight twins and the long-birthed May day are all living and apparently in good health. — Exchange.

Many people on the verge of death have taken Tonic and recovered. — Elba Drug Co.

TEXAN SHOT TO DEATH IN COURT

Miss Marcine Matthews, 18 years old, shot and instantly killed J. S. Crosslin at Waco, Texas, during proceedings in the district court. It was charged with attacking the girl.

Crosslin, aged 70 years, was tried, convicted and sentenced to nine years in the penitentiary, but the case was reversed on an error in the admission of testimony and remanded for trial.

"He disgraced me, ruined my health and deprived me of school privileges," said the girl's attorney. Miss Matthews, Mr. Joseph Roberts, Miss Eva Lou Donaldson, organized two women who sat in a chair beside the witness chair, then turned with a pistol in her hand and fired straight at Crosslin who sat in a chair beside his attorneys, fifteen feet away. She then took two or three steps forward and fired again. Advancing to within three feet of the man who had collapsed in his chair, she fired a third time, the bullet penetrating his side.

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

State of Alabama, Coffee County. Notice is hereby given that letter of administration upon the Estate of Henry Williams, deceased, having been granted to the undersigned by Hon. S. N. Rose, Judge of Probate of Coffee County, Alabama, and all parties having claims against the said estate must present the same within the time allowed by law, or the same will be forever barred.

Date this 6th day of March, 1922.
W. J. BULLARD,
Administrator.

NOTICE TO ELECTORS

All electors (men) over the age of forty-five years are requested to send to the Probate Office at Elba the date, month and year of their birth. This information is very necessary in making up the poll lists for the current year. Unless this is done your name may not appear on the poll.

S. N. ROWE,
Judge of Probate.

For Probate Judge
I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of Probate Judge of Coffee County, subject to the action of the coming Democratic primary in August. Your vote and support will be appreciated.

R. O. FONN FLEMING.
(Paid political announcement by R. O. Fleming, Enterprise, Ala.)

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SINGING AT DAMASCUS

The Seven-Sapse Singing Society met at Damascus Sunday afternoon, February 26, 1922, to organize for the year. House called to order by Mr. J. C. Donaldson by singing 2 songs. Then a lesson by three, three songs each. Mr. Beresford Horn, Mr. Roman, Mr. Joseph Roberts, Mr. Rees, Mr. Louie, Mr. Donaldson, organist.

Crosslin, aged 70 years, was tried, convicted and sentenced to nine years in the penitentiary, but the case was reversed on an error in the admission of testimony and remanded for trial.

"He disgraced me, ruined my health and deprived me of school privileges," said the girl's attorney. Miss Matthews, Mr. Joseph Roberts, Mr. Roman, Mr. Joseph Roberts, Mr. Rees, Mr. Louie, Mr. Donaldson, organist.

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Some Aspects of the Farmers' Problems

By BERNARD M. BARUCH

(Reprinted from Atlantic Monthly.)

ing to take the unfavorable chance if the favorable one also is theirs and they can retain for themselves a part of the net proceeds that are unprofitable, good years and bad, with high prices and low.

While in the main, the farmer must sell, at the time of the maturity of crops, he cannot suspend production in toto. He must go on producing if he is to go on living, and if the world is to exist. The most that can be done is to produce a little or all of its crops that—because he is in the dark as to the probable demand for his goods—may be only to jump from the frying pan into the fire, taking the consumer with him.

Even the dairy farmers, whose output is not seasonal, complain that they must sell, and that their losses lie in the marketing of their production, especially raw milk, because of the high costs of distribution, which they must ultimately bear.

III

Now that the farmers are straining, thumping, and writhing as never before to eradicate these inequalities, they are met with accusations of idleness, and are met with the accusation that they are demanding, and are the recipients of, special privileges. We see such accusations in the government as well as in the press. Much has been made of Section 6 of the Clayton Anti-Trust Act, which purports to prohibit trusts and combinations under certain conditions. Admitting that, nominally, this exemption was in the nature of a special privilege—other than that it so appears—rather than a fact, we find that the courts have nullified it by judicial interpretation. Why should not the farmer be entitled to compete on the same methods, what other businesses are already doing by co-operation in the form of incorporation? If it were proper for men to form, by force of existing conditions, otherwise, a corporation that controls the entire production of a commodity, or a large part of it, why is it not proper for a group of farmers to form, for the manufacture and common products, either in one or more selling agencies? Why should it be right that a hundred thousand farmers, with no capital, and no other businesses are already doing by co-operation in the form of incorporation? If it were proper for men to form, by force of existing conditions, otherwise, a corporation that controls the entire production of a commodity, or a large part of it, why is it not proper for a group of farmers to form, for the manufacture and common products, either in one or more selling agencies? Why should it be right that a hundred thousand farmers, with no capital, and no other businesses are already doing by co-operation in the form of incorporation? If it were proper for men to form, by force of existing conditions, otherwise, a corporation that controls the entire production of a commodity, or a large part of it, why is it not proper for a group of farmers to form, for the manufacture and common products, either in one or more selling agencies? Why should it be right that a hundred thousand farmers, with no capital, and no other businesses are already doing by co-operation in the form of incorporation?

Now, what is the farmer asking? Without trying to catalogue the remedial measures that have been suggested in his behalf, the principal ones are: (1) relief directly on the procurement of materials and marketing relations may be summarized as follows:

The National Bank: L. A. Boyd president; S. N. Rouse, vice-president; H. C. Johnson, active vice-president; and O. A. Ellis, cashier. These, together with W. W. Sanders and John M. Garrett, form the directors. Elba has two banks: The Elba Bank & Trust Company has a capital and surplus of \$12,000. Y. W. Rainer is president; J. B. Amos, active vice-president; F. P. Rainier, second vice-president; O. S. Rainier, cashier; Y. W. Rainer, J. B. Amos, R. L. Cooper, Cashier, and D. Brooks, director.

The First National Bank: L. A. Boyd

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Town Proud of School

Elba has a right to be proud of both of its public and its high school as both are well housed and have splendid grounds. W. J. Farley, principal of the Elba High School, is assisted by Misses Annie Lou Conner, Annie Laurie Bullard, Eula Lee, Clytie Young, Antoinette Sanders and Mrs. Ola Barnes Kendle, music director. There are eight rooms, 17 grades and 338 pupils.

The Elba High School, Walter S. Speer, superintendent, has his office in the basement of the school.

Schools, washing, grading of

agricultural products, and certification thereof, to be done by impartial and disinterested public inspectors (this is directed mainly to some of the smaller schools of the state).

State, washing, grading of

agricultural products, and certification thereof, to be done by impartial and disinterested public inspectors (this is directed mainly to some of the smaller schools of the state).

Third: a certainty of credit sufficient to enable the marketing of products in an orderly manner.

The fourth: the Department of Agriculture should collect, tabulate, summarize, and regularly and frequently publish and distribute to the farmers information from all sources of the world, so that he will be well informed of their selling position as buyers now are of their buying position.

The fifth: freedom to integrate the business of agriculture by means of consolidated selling agencies, co-operating and co-operating as far as possible to the extent that the farmer can do business with the larger buyers, and with the general public.

The sixth: freedom to buy to his best advantage, and to receive the best price for his products.

The seventh: freedom to sell to his best advantage, and to receive the best price for his products.

The eighth: freedom to exercise mon-

opolistic power—the American people are too firmly opposed to industrial people as political autocracy, whether tempted by rural or by urban industry.

For lack of united effort the farmers as a whole are not making progress, and are antithetical to, or by no methods at all, but they are surrounded by a business world that has been dedicated to the same interests. There is little room for efficiency. That efficiency is due in large measure to big business, to united business, to integrated business. The farmers now seek the benefits of such largeness, unit and integration.

The American farmer is a modern of the moderns in the use of labor saving devices, as well as what may be called the net general benefit than encouragement of ample production of the principal necessities of life and their even flow from interested producers to save consumers.

Such it may be conceded that special governmental aid may be necessary in the general interest, we must all agree that agriculture and the production of farm products are not agricultural business opportunities that are open to all but business men with much power automobiles. The American farmer is the greatest and most intratable of individual business men, and his commercial mechanism and its myriad accessories have articulated and coordinated themselves to such a degree that—because he is in the dark as to the probable demand for his goods—he may be only to jump from the frying pan into the fire, taking the consumer with him.

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